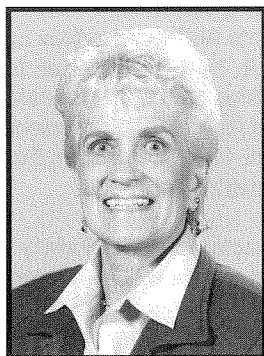


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



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NATION'S FIRST LEGISLATION REQUIRING CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATION INTRODUCED The Michigan Senate recently introduced legislation requiring all girls entering the sixth grade to receive a vaccination which would prevent the virus that causes cervical cancer, unless parents choose to opt out as provided under Michigan law. Senate Bills 1416 and 1417, supported by all women in the Michigan Senate, require the vaccine to be added to the immunization schedule for Michigan's schools and academies beginning next school year. Recently approved by the FDA for girls and women ages 9 through 26, a vaccine has been shown to be 100 percent effective at preventing the two types of human papillomavirus (HPV) that are responsible for approximately 70 percent of all cervical cancers. The legislation was passed out of committee and is currently awaiting full consideration by the Senate. In addition to this vaccine, annual gynecological screenings are encouraged to help prevent cervical cancer.

DID YOU KNOW? In the United States, the American Cancer Society estimates 9,710 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer and more than 3,700 women will die from the disease in 2006.

FREE COLLEGE SAVINGS WEBINARS OFFERED Webinars are being offered by the Michigan Education Trust (MET) and the Michigan Savings Program (MESP) to celebrate September's designation as College Savings Month. MET allows parents, grandparents, businesses and others to pre-purchase undergraduate tuition to any Michigan university or college for a child residing in Michigan. Offered online and free of charge, the Webinars will provide guest speakers and representatives from both MET and MESP who will discuss important features of the programs. Enrollment for the 2007 MET program begins October 1, 2006 and runs through January 31, 2007. For more information about MET, and to sign up to participate in the interactive online Webinars, log onto www.setwithmet.com.

FALL COLORS TOUR FEATURED ONLINE Michigan residents are preparing to welcome all of the joys of fall, including the transformation of tree leaves from green to brilliant shades of red, yellow and orange. For those who enjoy driving to various areas of the state to see the beautiful fall colors, Travel Michigan has suggested a number of fall color tour routes for all parts of the state, some following major state highways, others meandering along secondary roads. Along every route, you'll find orchards and country markets, cider mills and wineries, autumn festivals and even a few haunted houses. It's spectacular and it's all in Michigan. Traditionally, the fall color season begins in mid-September to early October in the Upper Peninsula and works its way south. From Mackinaw City to about the Mason/Lake/Osceola/Clare county line, colors change around late September to early October. South to the Ottawa/Kent/Ionia/Clinton county line, colors change early to mid-October. South to the Indiana/Michigan border, colors change mid- to late October. For more information about the tours and to sign up for fall color updates, please visit www.michigan.gov/travel.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION MONTH September has been declared Food Safety Month in Michigan. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) has made food safety its primary goal. The Department regulates the food supply at 17,900 food-processing plants, retail grocery stores, convenience stores, markets and fair concessions in Michigan. The MDA helps assure safe food consumption in Michigan through laboratory sampling and by keeping consumers informed of food recalls and other food issues. Numerous pages on the MDA website have been devoted to topics ranging from food safety in the home and outdoors to sanitation training. That information can be found by visiting www.michigan.gov/foodsafety.

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail,
please contact me at SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov